

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present application claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/957,442, entitled "Structured Algorithmic Programming Language Approach to System Design," filed September 18, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. a,bbb,ccc, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference, which claims priority to both U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/240,883, entitled "Synchronous Hardware Description Method," filed October 16, 2000, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/257,923, entitled "Techniques for Rapid Implementation of High-Performance FPGAs From Algorithmic C Specifications," filed December 21, 2000, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.--